

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 020609

FOLLOWING REPEAT BONN 1250 23 JAN

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 01250

USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, GW, GR, CY, TU

SUBJECT: EC POLITICAL COOPERATION

REF: STATE 300118

1. THE FOREIGN OFFICE HAS INFORMED US THAT THE
POLITICAL DIRECTORS WILL DEVOTE A HALF DAY DURING
THEIR FEBRUARY 7 TO 8 MEETING TO A DISCUSSION OF EC
POLITICAL COOPERATION WITH THE ACCESSION STATES.

2. THE GERMANS HAVE LONG BEEN CONCERNED OVER THE
DIFFICULTY OF HARMONIZING EC POLITICAL POLICIES WITH
THE ACCESSION STATES. THE FOREIGN OFFICE DIRECTOR
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FOR EUROPEAN POLITICAL COOPERATION (VON DER GABLENTZ)
TOLD US THAT BONN HAS BEEN IN THE FOREFRONT OF THOSE
SEEKING EARLY CONSIDERATION OF THIS PROBLEM. AT THE
FORTHCOMING MEETING, THE GERMANS WILL ADVOCATE
BRINGING THE ACCESSION STATES INTO THE POLITICAL
COOPERATION PROCESS AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE.
THIS WOULD TAKE THE FORM OF MORE EXTENSIVE POLITICAL

CONSULTATIONS, BOTH BILATERALLY AND VIA THE
PRESIDENCY, WITH THE PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS PRIOR TO
THEIR ENTRY INTO THE EC.

3. THE FOREIGN OFFICE IS CONCERNED THAT IT WILL
PROVE PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT TO RECONCILE GREEK POLICY
ON CYPRUS WITH THAT OF THE EC-9. VON DER GABLENTZ
TOLD US THAT A RECENT ANALYSIS BY THE FRG EMBASSY IN
ATHENS HAD SHOWN THAT GREECE OFTEN SUPPORTED THIRD
WORLD AND EASTERN EUROPEAN POSITIONS IN THE UN (IN
OPPOSITION TO THE NINE) AS A MEANS OF GARNERING
SUPPORT FOR ITS CYPRUS POLICY. THIS COULD POSE REAL
PROBLEMS FOR THE EC-9 AND FRG OFFICIALS PLAN TO
UNDERLINE TO PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS (WHO IS VISITING
HERE JANUARY 31) THE NEED TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF COMMUNITY
POSITIONS IN THE FUTURE. THIS EFFORT TO CONVINCE THE
GREEKS TO PURSUE A EUROPEAN RATHER THAN A NATIONAL
POLICY ON CYPRUS WOULD BE THE COUNTERPART TO
EXPANDED POLITICAL COOPERATION WITH TURKEY (REFTEL).
VON DER GABLENTZ CONFESSED THAT HE WAS NOT VERY
OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESS.
STOESSEL
UNQUOTE VANCE

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NNN

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